

cists are opposed to equality and freedom and work to squash them and "free speech" whenever they can get away with it. How ironic to support those who would gag you (after they get women, queers, Jews, Blacks, indigenous people and radicals, of course)!

St. Vitus — and many others — attribute people's racism to ignorance and/or defensiveness. I agree: All people who support the oppression of other beings are ignorant fuckfaces. We also agree that such people are also usually defensive because they're frightened of losing the privilege they've been granted by this society due to their race, sex, class, or sexual orientation. We also agree that people who are bigots out of ignorance and/or defensiveness can be changed. We've all gone through that process ourselves. However, we need to be clear on something: Racism, sexism, homophobia, etc. are more than individual diseases, they are *systems* of exploitation and domination. For example, when we say America is a racist society (which it is), we don't just mean that a lot of rednecks live here. We mean that this is a society that systematically favors one group of people over all others in nearly every aspect of our lives.

Racism is a system that uses whatever means it can to maintain the domination of one race over all others. Fascists who are organizing are more than just ignorant and defensive, they are actively working to strengthen the *system* of racism, using whatever means they can get away

with. As anarchists, we all know that all systems of oppression must be fought using whatever weaponry we can throw at them. That's why when a racist tries to organize or speak, we'll do whatever we can do to shut them up, because we're not fighting a bigoted individual so much as we are a system of exploitation and domination that we are vehemently opposed to. The point of beating up fascists or preventing them from speaking, organizing, or otherwise is not to "re-educate them" or to get them to change their minds, but to shut them up. As Ramsey of Politi-

cal Asylum said in an interview in P.E. #13 "I wouldn't hit a fascist to change his views, I'd hit him to defend myself. I'd hit him because he's a fascist, not because I wanted to give him a political education."

This issue isn't about "free speech vs. violence," or as St. Vitus and many others put it, "free speech vs. fascism." Let's be clear on what fascism is. Fascism is a political ideology and a form of social organization that is autocratic, totalitarian, extremely centralized and extremely nationalistic. Usually, fascism and its ultra-nationalism means it's a racist and sexist ideology as well. Fighting fascists and fascism is NOT fascist. The real issue is fighting oppression, using any means necessary. Harassing fascist would-be oppressors is NOT fascist, it's necessary if we want an anti-fascist society.

So this is my and other P.E. folks' position in a nutshell: We support anyone who fucks fascists up. We support anyone who stops fascists from speaking, organizing, or attempting any other kind of anti-social activity, and we will do our part to help anti-fascist activities. Freedom means nothing unless it is enjoyed by all. Fas-

cists are opposed to freedom for all, so they must be stopped, dead, if necessary. Saying fascists want a fight because it gets them attention is only partly true; if they get the shit kicked out of them enough times, they disappear like a lump of jelly evaporating on a hot sidewalk.

Also, we are NOT pro-censorship. We're too busy to be other people's censors. This is not a "free speech vs. censorship" controversy as many people try to portray it. However, we're not interested in giving fascists a voice. If they want a

voice, they'll have to fight for it, just like we fight for ours every day. Further, fascists will not be given a voice within the pages of P.E. and, if we can help it, on the streets or anywhere in the free society we are trying to build.

So, fascists, make sure you look over your shoulder if you're going to try to organize and spread your racist, misogynist, homophobic trash, cos someday, somewhere, an anti-fascist is going to put a fist in your face, and if we can't be there to help, we'll at least want photos for the next issue! ★



TURN UP THE HEAT

*A Firearms Primer for
Anarchists and Punks*

In this article we will look at how and why firearms are important to the anarchist movement, basic types and operation of firearms, their applications, and how to go about selecting and buying a weapon. I will assume the reader has no prior knowledge of firearms other than seeing them in movies. My approach will be as simple as possible so experienced shooters will just have to bear with me. Historically the gun culture has been dominated by white blue collar males and can seem very exclusionary and complicated to women, minorities etc. Reading gun magazines and going to gun shows you will encounter a lot of right wing, sexist, and outright neo-nazi attitudes and ideas. Don't let this discourage you from buying or reading about weapons. Just try to divorce the inanimate weapons from the redneck bullshit surrounding them. A weapon is a tool just like a hammer or an axe. It can be used for good, for evil, or just for kicks. I'm not going to get bogged down in any sort of violence/non-violence argument but I am aware of pacifist sentiments in the anarchist movement. If straight talk about weapons, vio-

lence and revolution offend you then don't read this article.

Anyone who lives in the real world can see that it is a violent and dangerous place. As anarchists we need to think seriously about defending ourselves and our comrades from state oppression and anti-social crime. The state has a monopoly on force which allows it to impose its will on us. Behind every law, edict, tax, fine and order is a loaded gun pointed at your head. That is the basis of state power. As anarchists and revolutionaries we should be proficient in the use of firearms in order to erode this monopoly on force and defend ourselves from state oppression.

Many anarchists are women who have to deal daily with the threat of rape and assault. Firearms are one way for women to defend themselves against sexist violence and empower themselves in a violently male dominated society. Also many anarchists live in major cities where urban decay and poverty have generated a great deal of anti-social crime. While the roots of this crime lay in the fucked up social structure I will assume that most anarchists wish to protect themselves from anti-social crime rather than let themselves be victimized and blame society. Re-member 911 is a joke 9mm is for real. I will also consider the use of weapons in a military application particularly revolutionary warfare. This may smack of vanguardism to some but we can't expect to win a guerilla war against state oppression if we can't master it's most basic tool.

I will begin by discussing handguns. Handguns can be broken down into two main categories: revolvers and automatics. Revolvers are the rugged six shooters we see in the cowboy movies. They use a revolving cylinder to rotate bullets into the firing chamber where a hammer can strike the bullet. This ignites the primer and powder in the cartridge firing the bullet from the barrel. Automatic pistols are a more modern design. In such weapons bullets are fed into a firing chamber from a spring loaded magazine. The recoil from each successive shot pushes the next bullet into the chamber and cocks the hammer.

Revolvers are popular for their reliability and simplicity. There is little that can jam or go wrong in a crisis situation. This has made it popular with police until recently. The main drawbacks of revolvers are capacity and speed

of reloading. Most revolvers hold six or fewer bullets. Many automatics carry as many as eighteen bullets. Revolvers take longer to reload, the cylinder must be swung from the frame of the weapon and the bullets inserted one at a time or with a special "speed loader" clip. The theory goes that in a firefight a person shooting a revolver will be forced to reload or conserve shots while someone firing an automatic will have more shots and reload faster, gaining a critical advantage. None of this matters if you can hit your target in the first few shots though. The popularity of high capacity automatic pistols with criminals has lead to many police departments adopting automatics over revolvers.

There are two main types of revolvers, single action and double action. On single action pistols the hammer must be manually cocked back before every shot. On double action pistols the hammer can be cocked manually or by a long pull of the trigger. Single action revolvers are very slow, this is why the cowboy in the movies "fan" their pistols—they are rapidly cocking the hammer to fire faster. Double action pistols are just as reliable but much faster.

Automatic pistols are more modern and complex but fire and load faster and have a greater capacity. There is a confusing array of hi-tech automatic pistols on the market today as well as many older military models which have been in use since before world war two. Automatics are more expensive but many reliable older models are available in the \$150-200 range. Hi-tech automatics featuring advanced construction and design and larger capacity can have prices of \$400-1000 and up.

There are several factors to consider in selecting a pistol. The most important is the size of the bullet for which the weapon is chambered. Bullets (or rounds) are measured both by imperial calibers and metric millimeters. Thus some common loads are referred to by their caliber or metric measurement or both. To make things more confusing this measurement is only of the base of the round and some with the same base may come in different lengths. In addition to this, rounds of the same size can be loaded with different amounts of powder or have a different type of projectile for various applications. Different countries have adopted various bullets over time and

while many are still in use there are many odd ball older weapons for which bullets are hard to find.

The main factor in handgun cartridge size is the power of the bullet. Wound ballistics is the grisly science of evaluating the effectiveness of various bullet types and powder loads on human bodies. Military and police labs have done endless tests to determine which bullets are best for penetrating human bodies and damaging organs inside them. Anyone seriously interested in handguns or weapons in general should take time to learn about wound ballistics. In general the larger and more powerful a bullet is the more effective it will be. The largest loads such as .44 magnum and .45 cal. have the greatest stopping power and pack the greatest wallop. However, larger bullets with powerful loads also have stronger recoil and are harder to control. In the past women have been steered towards very small loads and underpowered "ladies guns." However, studies have shown that women are just as capable of handling and accurate shooting of more powerful weapons as men. But, male or female, hand size and upper body strength play a big part in controlling a weapon. In the macho gun culture many weapons are manufactured which are ridiculously powerful and can only be shot by people with very large hands and arms. For example .44 magnum and .50 cal. pistols. Don't let machismo or "bigger is better" discourage you, the most practical and effective weapons are more manageable .38 cal., .357, .40 cal./10mm, 9 mm and .45 cal. Of these .45 and .40/10mm are most powerful and may still be hard to manage for smaller folks. 9mm is very popular and quite effective. Most 9mm automatics are easy to manage and accurate and have high capacity. 9mm is also the handgun and submachine gun load used by most military forces meaning that it is common and easily obtainable in period of unrest and guerilla war. I would recommend a 9mm to anyone interested in automatics and .357 to those interested in revolvers.

Another factor to keep in mind when selecting handguns is size and concealability. If it is necessary for you to carry a weapon on your person you want as small a weapon as possible while still having power and capacity. Due to the need for concealable weapons in police work there has been a great deal of

development of weapons which are compact yet powerful. However, many smaller weapons are cheesy "purse guns" in understrength loads such as .22, .25 and .32 cal. which are not effective in real life situations.

With handguns out of the way we can deal with long guns. These can be broken down into two main categories: rifles and shotguns. Rifles fire a bullet similar to that of a pistol only with a more powerful load allowing it to fire accurately over longer distances. Shotguns fire projectiles from a brass and plastic "shell." Usually these are a cluster of small metal BBs which fan out somewhat in flight enabling them to punch many small holes in a wider area. Shotguns can also fire a single slug similar to a giant pistol bullet.

Rifles can be divided into three main categories, bolt-action, semi-automatic and full automatic. A bolt action weapon needs to have the bullet manually fed into its firing chamber by drawing back and pushing in its bolt. On semi-auto weapons the bolt cocks itself using the recoil of the last bullet fired (just like an automatic pistol). Therefore a bullet is fired for each time the trigger is pulled. A full auto weapon further mechanizes the process and keeps firing as long as the trigger is held down. Full auto rifles are more commonly called machine guns. Many military "assault rifles" are selective fire—that is they can be switched from semi to full auto for greater versatility. In addition many modern assault rifles now feature a compromise "three round burst" per trigger pull.

Many full auto weapons fire pistol ammunition and form a class of weapons all their own—submachine guns or machine pistols. Examples of these are the 9mm Uzi and .45 cal Thompson "tommy gun." Submachine guns can lay down a large amount of lead very quickly but have limited range like pistols. SMGs are good for urban combat and are widely used by terrorists and assassins who desire maximum firepower in a limited area. They are also used extensively by SWAT teams and anti-terrorist squads. Semi-auto versions of most popular SMGs are available but are legally classed as pistols.

Bolt action rifles are an older design principle but are often the most accurate. They usually fire a more powerful "full size" load and are accurate at long ranges. This makes them very popular with hunters and snipers. Bolt

action weapons were abandoned as military arms as assault rifles became popular after world war two. But equipped with a telescopic sight such weapons can be deadly at ranges far greater than most assault rifles. The popularity of such weapons as hunting rifles makes them readily available and unlikely to be banned anytime soon.

Most semi-automatic rifles are fed from a spring loaded magazine just like automatic pistols. Some magazines are fixed to the weapon. This means that bullets must be inserted into the weapon one at a time or by inserting a "stripper clip" which allows several bullets to be pushed in at once. Most military style weapons feature detachable magazines, much like an automatic pistol. This allows one to carry several loaded magazines making ejection and reloading of the weapon very fast and efficient. Very popular and controversial today are semi-auto detachable magazine "assault rifles." These are semi-auto civilian versions of what would normally be selective fire military weapons. Due to restrictions these are often very expensive and hi-tech weapons. Once again the round the weapon is chambered for is very important. The most popular are .223 cal/5.56 mm and 7.62x39mm which are the American and Communist Bloc loads respectively. These are widely used in the ubiquitous M16 and AK-47 assault rifles.

I can recommend two excellent weapons chambered for these loads. The one weapon I personally think should be the standard arm for anarchist guerrillas due to its ruggedness, versatility and affordability is the Ruger mini-14. This is a .223 cal. semi auto rifle with a detachable magazine. It is popular as a ranch and hunting weapon but also is a fine combat weapon. It has a wide variety of after market accessories available such as folding stocks, scopes, large capacity magazines, grenade launchers etc. Its popularity makes it more difficult to ban than more militaristic looking assault rifle copies. .223/5.56mm ammunition is used by the military of the USA and most NATO countries and would be readily available in periods of unrest and guerrilla war. More exotic assault type weapons are also very good but can cost \$1-2,000 and up, whereas a Mini-14 runs \$3-400. The AK-47 is a notorious and rugged guerrilla arm. However, this weapon is now very expensive in the USA. A similar weapon the SKS is now

available in the USA in large numbers. This is a predecessor of the AK-47 and also fires 7.62x39mm ammunition. It shares the AK-47's reliability and accuracy and is semi-auto but lacks a detachable magazine. Instead it is loaded with ten-round stripper clips. It can however, be modified to accept detachable magazines and due to its popularity also has a large number of accessories available for it. Imported in mass quantities from China this weapon is readily available in the \$120-175 range and is well worth it. Hurry, it may be banned soon.

Historically shotguns have been the all-around American hunting and home-defense weapon. Shotguns have a limited range and accuracy but are very effective and deadly at close ranges due to their power. This makes them quite suitable for home defense and urban guerrilla warfare. Older shotguns are breech loaded-that is they open where the hammer meets the barrel and a single shell is inserted into the firing chamber. To double the effectiveness of this design double barrel shotguns were developed. Mad Max's weapon in The Road Warrior is a double barrel 12 gauge shotgun with handle and barrels sawed off. Most modern shotguns feature a tubular magazine under the barrel. Shot shells are fed into the firing chamber by racking a sliding handle back and forth along the magazine. This is what Rowdy Roddy Piper does in the "kick ass and chew gum" scene of They Live. The most common shell for shotguns is 12 gauge. This is a very powerful load with a big recoil but most people will find it easy to manage with practice. It is used by almost all police and SWAT teams and is also popular with hunters. I would recommend that anyone buying a shotgun stick to 12 gauge with a 5 or 7 round magazine. One has the option of a traditional hunting style shotgun with a stock which is fired from the shoulder or a "riot gun" which has a pistol grip and is fired from the hip. The riot gun is easier to conceal and handle in tight spaces and is a favorite of drug gangs and SWAT teams for maximum lethality in urban combat.

Buying a firearm is a daunting task. Keep in mind that a firearm is a tool and you need the right tool for your specific job.

A pistol is fine for defending the apartment but not a farmstead or a guerrilla war. I have tried to offer some suggestions as far as

versatility and affordability are concerned for each type of weapon. Shopping for weapons is much like shopping for a car-you can buy new or used, from a dealer or an individual, hi-tech and classy or stripped down and rugged and you can't expect a pinto to do the job of a mack truck. Buying a gun brings into consideration the insane degree to which they are regulated. Indeed, much of this article has been irrelevant to readers outside the USA since they have little or no right to legally buy weapons. Luckily (please don't accuse me of being patriotic here) we still have some limited rights to buy and own firearms in the USA. There are a myriad of federal, state and local laws regulating firearms. These are always becoming more, not less, restrictive. So all I can say is buy now even if you can't afford it because the most controversial (combat effective) weapons may be banned forever tomorrow. The state desperately wants to control the power of the populace to arm itself. Liberal leftist social engineers blindly play into this with calls for "gun control." We saw what happened at Tiananmen Square when unarmed people tried to fight the state. I don't want to sound like an apologist for the NRA or other rightist organizations but we should take advantage of weapons laws now before they become more restrictive.

In most places you must be 18 to buy rifles and shotguns and 21 to buy pistols. One of the most common misconceptions is that you need some sort of license or permit to buy and own firearms. In most of the USA this is not the case. In most places you can buy weapons over the counter cash and carry. In some areas you may have to wait 7-14 days and have your record checked. If you are a convicted felon, insane, or not a US citizen you won't be able to buy firearms. Full auto weapons are still legal but are very strictly regulated. To buy them you must obtain a type 3 license from the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms. This is expensive and you must be over 21 and have a clean record. Type -3 weapons are very expensive and usually run in the \$1-3,000 range. Some states and municipalities have much stricter laws than these (especially NYC) forcing people to travel to less restrictive states.

The main places to buy weapons are from stores, dealers, individuals and on the black market. Gun stores are very strict and by the

book and the most expensive. However, like buying a car from a dealer you have more consumer rights and everything is up front and legal. Usually you can buy legally from a dealer who has a Federal Firearms License (FFL) these are usually enthusiasts who deal in weapons to support a collecting and shooting hobby. They deal mostly by word of mouth and at gun and knife shows. You will have to observe all federal and local regulations with a dealer but will have more room to haggle or score cut-rate deals. You can also legally buy weapons through classified ads in trading newspapers. You can find rare deals in such transactions and have a more casual attitude since you are dealing with private citizens. You can also buy weapons on the black market. This is risky and dangerous. Most guns obtained legally can be traced to you by point of sale. A black market weapon is sold underground and is more difficult to trace making it popular for gangland killings. Most of these weapons are burglarized and may have already been used in numerous crimes by the time you see them. Black market weapons are usually obtained through the same channels as street drugs such as crack or smack. You may very well be offered a murder weapon or worse. I provide this data for informational purposes only in order to make the danger of such transactions apparent.

Now that you have a weapon you must learn to use it and practice with it. Seek out literature on how to disassemble, clean and maintain your weapon. Learn to strip it, clean it, clear jams and care for it properly. In order to use your weapon effectively and accurately you must practice regularly. Look into ranges in your area or find someone who has land where you can shoot. Look into practical or action shooting which simulates combat situations such as night fighting or taking cover. You can often purchase ammunition cheaply in bulk and serious shooters re-load their own to save on ammo costs.

I have only scratched the surface in this article but I hope it proves helpful to everyone interested in firearms. I urge you to check out reference works and gun magazines. The best are works by Ian V. Hogg and Edward C. Ezell. Magazines may smack more of redneck attitudes but if you can strain the facts through the bullshit you will learn a lot. Shoot straight...for anarchy. ★